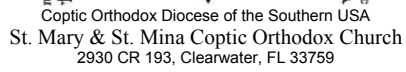


THE COPTIC LANGUAGE

Fr. Kyrillos Makar

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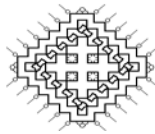


Introduction

FAC III I

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Father Kyrillos Makar



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Notes

1. The Coptic language is described by Professor Rodolphe Kasser of the University of Geneva, Switzerland as **"one of the most beautiful, most cleverly structured and most musical in the world"** *

2. These lessons are designed to teach some introductory basic principles of the "Bohairic" Coptic Dialect which is used by the church in its liturgical services.

3. The pronunciation is the traditional pronunciation that is used by the Church as well as the few families who use Coptic as their daily language.

4. There are 32 letters in the Coptic alphabet. The first 25 are derived from the Greek letters that have their origin in the Egyptian Hieroglyphic script, the last 7 letters are directly derived from the Egyptian Demotic Script.

* Kasser, R., *The Coptic Language(s)*, The Coptic Encyclopedia, Vol. 8, Atiya, A.S., ed., Macmillan Publishing Co., NY, 1991, Page 145.

LECTURE # 1

The Egyptian Alphabets;

Their relationship to other alphabets

Egyptian Contributions to the development of civilization:

The contributions to civilization made by Egypt are best described by Dr. Leonard H. Lesko who wrote¹: *"The ancient Egyptians made outstanding contributions to the development of civilization. They created the world's first national government, basic forms of arithmetic, and a 365-day calendar. They invented a form of picture writing called Hieroglyphics. They also invented papyrus, a paperlike writing material made from the stems of papyrus plants. The Egyptians developed one of the first religions to emphasize life after death. They built great cities in which many skilled architects, doctors, engineers, painters, and sculptors worked. The best known achievements of ancient Egypt, however, are the pyramids they built as tombs for their rulers. The most famous pyramids stand at Giza. These gigantic stone structures - marvels of architecture and engineering skills - have been preserved by the dry climate for about 4500 years. They serve as spectacular reminders of the glory of ancient Egypt."*

The rapid development of their writing system was facilitated by their discovery of methods to make paper and ink. Walter A. Fairservis, Jr.² states that *"One of the most important contributions made by ancient Egypt was papermaking. Paper was made from the papyrus plant that grows abundantly in the marches of the Nile Valley. Before the Egyptians invented paper, writing was done on clay tablets, which crumble, or on stone, which is heavy and hard to carve. Unlike the rest of the ancient world, the Egyptians required only a brush and some ink, and they could easily carry these materials anywhere they went."* Donald Jackson also affirms³ that *"Indeed the marriage of liquid ink, pen and paper first brought about by the Egyptians was such a revolutionary step that it is still the fundamental basis of most handwritten communication today."*

Egyptian Alphabets as the Ultimate Source of the Modern Western Alphabet:

The Egyptians developed the Hieroglyphic Writing around 3000 BC⁴. It consisted originally of signs that stood for words or ideas, but gradually each sign stood for a syllable or a sound. Hieratic, which is a simplified cursive form of the hieroglyphic, was soon developed by Egyptian scribes who used it for both religious and nonreligious purposes⁵. Around 700 BC

Demotic writing was developed. This was simpler and faster to write than the hieratic. The scribes used it for correspondence and record keeping⁵.

Around 1500 BC, the Semites developed an alphabet which is based on the Egyptian hieroglyphic system^{4,6,7}. The Phoenicians, one of the Semitic peoples perfected an alphabet around 1000 BC. The Greek alphabet, which is the progenitor of Roman (Latin) letters^{4,6} was directly derived from the Phoenician alphabet^{4,6,7,8}. The Greeks not only took the forms of letters, they also took over some Phoenician names for the letters. The first letter of the Phoenician alphabet, א, its name is aleph, meaning ox, became α, or alpha in Greek. The second letter, ב, or beth, meaning house, became β, or beta in Greek⁴.

Based on the above-mentioned facts, the English alphabet of today can be traced back to the sign writing of ancient Egypt. Barbara Mertz states that: *"The birds and the bees of the ancient Egyptian script may have a more direct relationship to our own alphabet than we realize"*⁹. Davies¹⁰ cites a quote by Gardiner describing this observation: *"The hieroglyphs lives on though in transmuted form within our own alphabet"*. Compton's Encyclopedia⁶ states that: *"The Latin Alphabet is a development from the Greek alphabet. The Greek alphabet, in turn, is an adaptation of a writing system which was developed among the Semites of Syria about 1500 BC. Outwardly, this first Semite writing seems to be an original and individual creation.. Its principals however, are certainly based on the Egyptian word-syllabic writing"*. Marianne Cooley⁴ states that *"The English alphabet developed from a number of early writing systems, beginning with the sign writing of Ancient Egypt"*. In the same reference⁴, she shows, in a table form, the development of each letter starting with the Egyptian (about 3000 BC) followed by Semitic (1500 BC) followed by Phoenician (about 1000 BC) followed by Greek (about 600 BC) followed by Roman (114 AD) and finally the modern alphabet. Paul Johnson, in his book *The Civilization of Ancient Egypt*¹¹, succinctly summarizes the development of modern Western Alphabet from the ancient Egyptian Alphabet in the following: *"The Egyptians mined at this Sinai site (the ancient turquoise mines) both during the Middle Kingdom and the New Kingdom. During the reign of Ammenemes III, around 1800 BC, Semitic workers were used at this site. One of them, evidently a man of creative ingenuity, became familiar with Egyptian hieroglyphic writing and determined to adapt it to his native Canaanite language, then unwritten. His stroke of genius was to select the alphabetic signs from the hieroglyphs, rejecting the consonantal groups and the ideograms. The new script survived and gradually spread north through Palestine and Syria, acquiring cursive characteristics in the process. In northern Syria, near the ancient port of Ras Shamra, it took on a cuneiform style - that is, it was adapted to the writing materials of the area, tablets and stylus. This Ras*

*Shamra script, ancient Ugaritic, has no other connection with Sumerian or Babylonian cuneiform. It is merely a modified form of the Canaanite-Egyptian alphabetic script. It was gradually adopted by the entire region, in various forms, and above all by the Phoenicians, who had an alphabet of twenty-eight letters. In the ninth century BC, the Greeks took over the Phoenician alphabet more or less as they found it, retaining even the names of the letters. They reversed the direction of the script from right-to-left to left-to-right, but the really important change they introduced, made essential by the structure of their own non-semitic tongue, was the vowel-sign. They switched the signs for six Canaanite consonants not used in Greek to vowels, and thus gave the world the structure of the alphabet more or less as we have it today. The ultimate source of the Western alphabet, therefore, is ancient Egypt"*¹¹.

The Microsoft Encarta 96 Encyclopedia¹² traces back the origin of several English letters to their hieroglyphic origin. For example, the letter "A" is traced back to the Egyptian hieroglyph of an eagle, the letter "B" from the hieroglyph for "crane", etc.

The Development of the Coptic Alphabet:

A. The origin of the word "Coptic":

The words "Copt, Coptic" as well as the words "Egypt, Egyptian" have the same origin; and that is the old Egyptian words describing Egypt as "*E-KA-Ptah*" meaning *the House of the Spirit of Ptah*. (*E* means *House*; *Ka* means *Spirit*; and *Ptah* is *one of the famous Gods of Old Egypt*). Therefore, the words "*Coptic*" and "*Egyptian*" are linguistically one and the same word.

B. The origin of the Coptic Alphabet:

The present 32 letters of the Coptic Alphabet are derived from two sources; The first 25 letters are modified from the Greek alphabet (table 1); *it should be remembered that the origin of these Greek letters can be traced back to the old Egyptian letters*⁴. whereas the last 7 letters are a modification from Demotic letters (table 2)¹³.

C. The contribution of the Coptic Alphabet to the Russian Alphabets:

The current Alphabet of the Russian Language is known as the Cyrillic Alphabet. It was invented by Saint Cyril (826 - 869 AD) and Saint Methodius (815 - 884 AD), two Greek brothers who were missionaries to Russia during the 9th Century. They knew Coptic and they introduced, along with the Greek letters, Coptic letters such as **Ϡ** (written as **III**) into the Russian Alphabet that is still in use in Russia today ¹⁴ .

D. The Greek words in the Coptic Liturgy and the Coptic Language in general:

In the first few centuries of Christianity in Egypt, the Greek language was the cultural language of the world, in much the same way as the English language these days. Greek was always the language used in international councils (Ecumenical councils). Many of the Coptic Church fathers e.g. Saint Athanasius, our 20th Pope, wrote mainly in Greek because, at that time, this is how people everywhere in the world would understand. However, many other Church fathers wrote in Coptic. Many Egyptians, especially in Alexandria, spoke Greek very fluently, in addition to Egyptian (Coptic) their mother tongue.

When Saint Mark came to Egypt and started his ministry there, Greek was the language that Saint Mark used and it was the language of the Liturgy that He handed down to his successors. When the Liturgy was later translated from Greek to Egyptian (Coptic), the Church kept some Greek words and expressions, and the Copts were very familiar with the meaning of these words. However, it is very important to remember that over 90% of the Divine Liturgy service and the Praises التسبحة is in Egyptian (Coptic), and less than 10% is in Greek.

The following are few examples of words of Greek origin that are used in our Liturgy:

1. Words of Greek origin that are used by the Coptic Church and many other churches. Actually these words are now part of many languages, including the Coptic as well as the English language:

Word	pronounced	Meaning
Ἀποστολος	Apostolos	Apostle
μαρτυρος	Marteeros	Martyr
ἄγγελος	Angelos	Angel
διακον	Thiyakon	Deacon
καθολικη	Katholikee	Catholic
ορθοδοξος	Orthodoxos	Orthodox

2. Greek words that are sometimes used but have Coptic equivalents

Greek Word		Coptic Equivalent		Meaning
θεος	(Theos)	ⲪⲚⲟⲩⲧ	(Efnouti)	God
θεοτοκος	(Theotokos)	ⲙⲁⲥⲛⲟⲩⲧ	(Masnouti)	Mother of God
ἅγιος	(Agyos)	Ⲫⲉⲉⲑⲟⲩⲁⲃ	(Fee-eth-owab)	Saint (masculine)
ἁγία	(Agiya)	ⲑⲉⲉⲑⲟⲩⲁⲃ	(Thee-eth-owab)	Saint (feminine)
εὐχῆ	(Evkee)	ⲉ̅ⲗⲉⲗ	(Eshleel)	Prayer
ἀνέστη	(Anesti)	ⲁⲩⲧⲱⲛⲓ	(aftonf)	is risen
ἀληθώς	(Aleethos)	ⲉ̅ⲕⲉⲛ ⲟⲩⲙⲉⲑⲙⲉⲉ	(khen oumethmee)	Truly

3. Traditionally, there are few hymns that are usually sung in Greek,

Δοξα Πατρι	(Thoksa Patri)
ἅγιος ὁ θεος	(Agyos o-The-os)
Χριστός ἀνέστη	(Ekhristos Anestee)

But the majority of Church hymns are in Coptic e.g.

ⲉ̅ⲕⲉⲛ ⲉ̅ⲑⲣⲁⲛ	(Khen-efran)
ⲉ̅ⲡⲟⲩⲣⲟ	(Ep-ouro)
ⲧⲁⲓⲱⲛⲓ	(Tai-shouri)

It should be remembered that the Coptic Language represents the final development of the Egyptian language. Cyrus Gordon, in his book, "Forgotten Scripts", states that: "The Coptic Church still preserves the native Egyptian language written in Greek characters, so that we have an unbroken tradition of Egyptian texts spanning about five thousand years"¹⁵. As a matter of fact, the Coptic language was the real key to the deciphering of the hieroglyphic and Demotic scripts by Champollion^{16, 17}. As a French teenager living in Grenoble, France, Champollion dreamed of being the one who would unlock the secrets of the Rosetta stone. He studied both ancient History and Coptic language. Christine Hobson in her book "*The World of the Pharaohs*"¹⁸ describes Champollion as "*A genius with a gift of languages, including Coptic which he mastered early, believing correctly, that it would be the key he would need one day to understand Egyptian*". Later on, he used his knowledge of the Coptic language to decipher the hieroglyphic writings on Rosetta stone. This great accomplishment of Champollion widely opened the doors to the unlocking of the glorious mysteries of Pharaonic Egypt^{15, 16, 17}.

The importance of the Egyptian (Coptic) language.

1. It represents the final stage of the development of the Egyptian tongue, and in the words of Cyrus Gordon¹⁵, we have "an unbroken tradition of Egyptian texts spanning about 5000 years". Coptic language was the spoken language in Egypt until the 11th Century when it was gradually replaced by Arabic. There are some historical records indicating that it was still the spoken language in some areas of Upper Egypt until the 17th century¹⁹.
2. It was the language that Jesus - as a baby visiting Egypt with Saint Mary and Saint Joseph - heard and spoke. Egypt was the only country Jesus visited outside his home country. Therefore, we feel that our old country and our language were blessed through this visit.
3. Although the Coptic language, at the present time, is no longer used by significant number of Egyptians, it still lives on in the hundreds of words in the Egyptian Arabic dialect spoken everyday in Egypt²⁰.
4. The Bible was translated to the Coptic language around the second century by the Egyptian scholars of the theological School of Alexandria, who were very fluent in both Greek and Coptic. Therefore the Coptic translation is considered one of the most reliable and accurate translations available.
5. The original writings of several early Church fathers were in Coptic, e.g. the writings and teachings of Saint Antony, the first Christian monk in the world, and those of Saint Shenouda the archmandrite were all in the Coptic language²¹.

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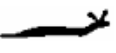

























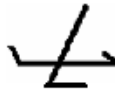
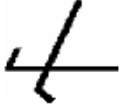


Table 1
The 25 Coptic Letters adapted from Greek Letters

Coptic			Greek		
Letter	Cap	Small	Letter	Cap	Small
Alpha	Α	α	Alpha	A	α
Veeta	B	β	Beta	B	β
Gamma	Γ	γ	Gamma	Γ	γ
Delta	Δ	δ	Delta	Δ	δ
Ei	Ε	ε	Epsilon	E	ε
soo	Ϣ	ϣ	Not used as a Greek Letter		
Zeeta	Ζ	ζ	Zeta	Z	ζ
Eeta	Η	η	Eta	H	η
Theeta	Θ	θ	Theta	Θ	θ
Iota	Ι	ι	Iota	I	ι
Kappa	Κ	κ	Kappa	K	κ
Lavla	Λ	λ	Lambda	Λ	λ
Mei	Μ	μ	Mu	M	μ
Nei	Ν	ν	Nu	N	ν
Eksee	Ξ	ξ	Xi	Ξ	ξ
O	Ο	ο	Omicron	Ο	ο
Pee	Π	π	Pi	Π	π
Ro	Ρ	ρ	Rho	Ρ	ρ
Seema	Σ	σ	Sigma	Σ	σ, ς
Tav	Τ	τ	Tau	T	τ
Epsilon	Υ	υ	Upsilon	Υ	υ
Fei	Φ	φ	Phi	Φ	φ
Kei	Χ	χ	Chi	X	χ
Epsee	Ψ	ψ	Psi	Ψ	ψ
OO	Ω	ω	Omega	Ω	ω

Note that most Coptic letters are written in a somewhat different way than the corresponding Greek Letters.

Note also that the Coptic names of the letters are in many cases different from the Greek names

Table 2
Coptic Letters derived directly from
older Egyptian Scripts

Letter	older Scripts			Coptic	
	Hiero-glyphic	Hieratic	Demotic	Cap	Small
Shai					
Fai					
Khai					
Hori					
Ganga					
Cheema					
Tee					

**Table 3. Summary of the
Names and Pronunciation of the Coptic Alphabet**

Letter			pronunciation	
Alpha	Ⲁ	ⲁ	A	as in <u>f</u> ather , or as in <u>f</u> an
Veeta	Ⲃ	ⲃ	V, B	based on position in the word
Gamma	Ⲅ	ⲅ	G, N, GH	based on position in the word
Delta	Ⲇ	ⲇ	TH, D	TH as in <u>th</u> en, (D in names)
Ei	Ⲉ	ⲉ	E	as in <u>p</u> en, or as <u>rai</u> n
Soo	Ⲋ	ⲋ		it is the numeral 6
Zeeta	Ⲍ	ⲍ	Z	as in <u>z</u> ebra
Eeta	ⲏ	Ⲑ	EE	as in <u>me</u> et
Theeta	Ⲓ	ⲓ	TH	as in <u>th</u> ink
Iota	Ⲕ	ⲕ	I, Y	based on position in the word
Kappa	Ⲗ	ⲗ	K	as in <u>coo</u> k
Lavla	ⲙ	Ⲏ	L	as in <u>loo</u> k
Mei	Ⲑ	ⲑ	M	as in <u>m</u> other
Nei	ⲓ	Ⲕ	N	as in <u>n</u> ancy
Eksee	ⲕ	Ⲍ	X	as in <u>bo</u> x
O	ⲏ	Ⲑ	O (Short)	as in British <u>no</u> t
Pee	ⲑ	Ⲓ	P	as in <u>P</u> eter
Ro	ⲓ	Ⲕ	R	as in <u>r</u> oom
Seema	ⲕ	Ⲍ	S, Z	based on position in the word
Tav	ⲏ	Ⲑ	T	as in <u>t</u> ake
Epsilon	ⲑ	Ⲓ	V, I, O	based on position in the word
Fei	ⲓ	Ⲕ	F	as in <u>f</u> an
Kei	ⲕ	Ⲍ	K, SH, KH	based on position in the word
Epsee	ⲏ	Ⲑ	PS	both p and s are pronounced
Oo	ⲑ	Ⲓ	O(Long)	as in <u>thro</u> w
Shai	ⲓ	Ⲕ	SH	as in <u>sh</u> ake
Fai	ⲕ	Ⲍ	F	as in <u>f</u> an
Khai	ⲏ	Ⲑ	KH	as in Arabic <u>Kh</u>
Hori	ⲑ	Ⲓ	H	as in <u>h</u> ouse
Ganga	ⲕ	Ⲍ	J, G	based on position in the word
Cheema	ⲏ	Ⲑ	CH	as in <u>Ch</u> urch
Tee	ⲑ	Ⲓ	TEE	as in <u>tea</u>
Jinkim	ⲓ	Ⲕ		Makes the letter a Separate syllable

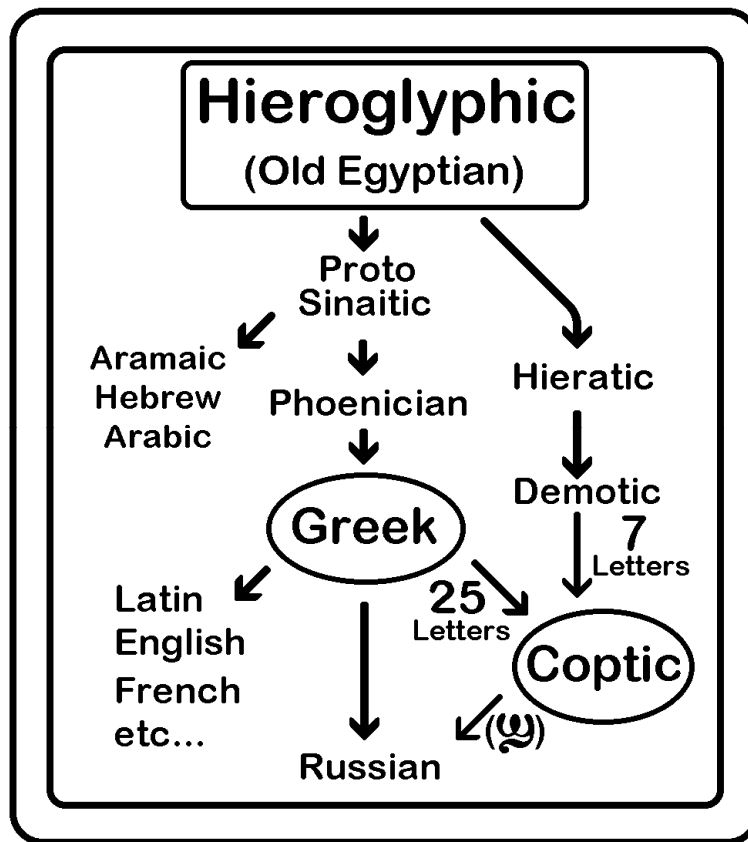
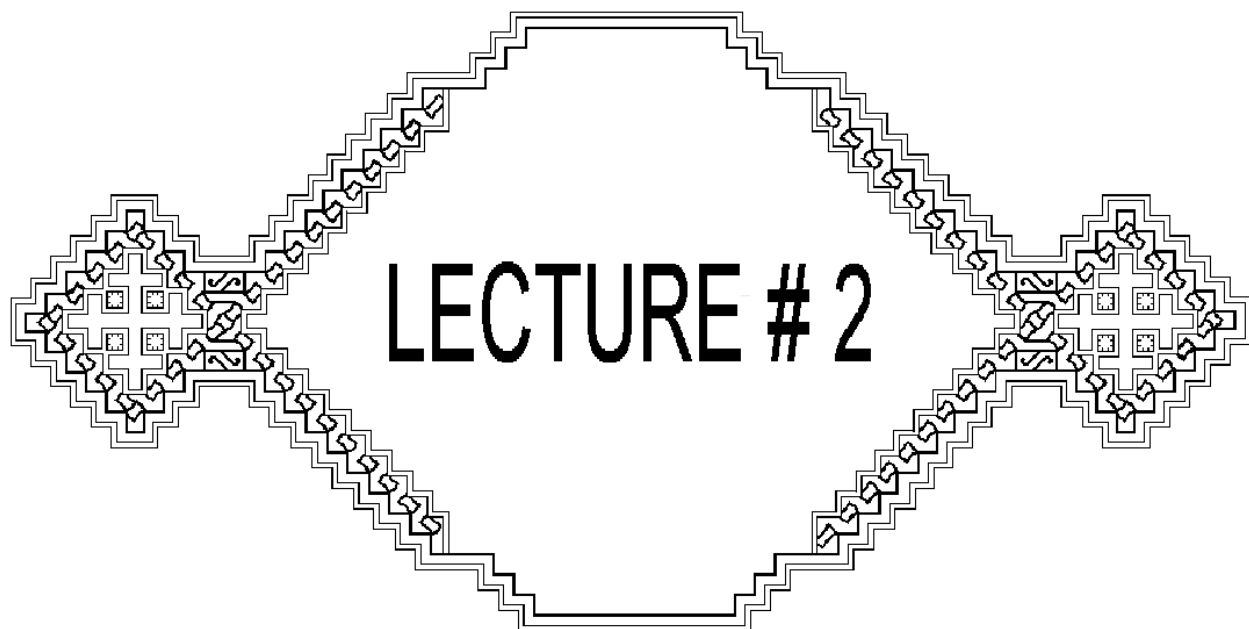


Figure 1
A flow chart showing the development
of several alphabets from
the Egyptian Hieroglyphic Script



1. Consonant Letters

N (n)

q (f)

p (r)

T (t)

z (h)

z (z)

K (k)

x (g or J)

2. Vowel Sounds

ā (a)

ē (ai)

ī (i)

H (ee)

o (o)




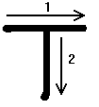

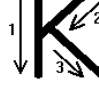
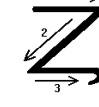

ω (oo)

oʏ (ou)







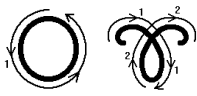

Jinkim 

A little slash on top of letters to make them pronounced as "separate syllables".

1. Consonant Letters

Letter	Name	Pronunciation	How to write it
ᠨ	Nei	N (as in <u>N</u>o)	
ᠴ	Fay	F (as in <u>F</u>ish)	
ᠷ	Ro	R (as in <u>R</u>oom)	
ᠲ	Tav	T (as in <u>T</u>ake)	
ᠬ	Hori	H (as in <u>H</u>ouse)	
ᠬ	Kappa	K (as in <u>c</u>ook)	
ᠵ	Zeeta	Z (as in <u>Z</u>one)	
ᠵ	Ganga	J (as in <u>J</u>im) If followed by ᠢ , ᠠ , ᠨ G (as in <u>G</u>o) all other situations.	

2.Vowel Sounds

Vowel (s)	Name	Pronunciation	How to write it
ᄁ	Alpha	A (as in F <u>a</u> ther) (or as in F <u>a</u> n)	
ᄂ	Eyy	E (as in R <u>a</u> in) (or as in P <u>e</u> n)	
ᄃ	yota	I Or Y (as in D <u>i</u> d, K <u>i</u> ng) (as in <u>y</u> ellow) if followed or preceded by another vowel	
ᄄ	Eeta	EE (as in M <u>ee</u> t)	
ᄅ	o	Short O (as in n <u>o</u> t)	
ᄆ	oo	Long O (as in Br <u>oo</u> d) (<i>open long O</i>)	
ᄇ		Long O (as in Br <u>oo</u> m) (<i>closed long O</i>) Note: When ᄇᄃ is followed by another vowel, it is pronounced as if there is a w between them e.g. ᄇᄃᄁ is pronounced owwa ᄇᄃᄂ is pronounced owwi ᄇᄃᄄ is pronounced owwee	
ᄈ	Jinkim	makes separate syllable (`n = en)	

Read and study the following words using the letters of Lesson 2

Word	<u>Approx.</u> pronunciation in English	Meaning
ከባድ	nofri	Hi or Good
ሰላም	na-nai (as in <u>rain</u>)	Good
ጸዕን	a-to-owwi	morning
ሰዓይ	rouhi	evening
ሰላም ጸዕን	na-nai a-to-owwi	Good morning
ሰላም ሰዓይ	na-nai rouhi	Good evening
ዕለት	e-ho-oo	day
ዕለት	e-gorh	night
ከባድ ዕለት	nofri e-ho-oo	Good Day
ከባድ ዕለት	nofri e-gorh	Good Night
ሰላም	nay (as in <u>buy</u>)	have mercy
ሰላም	nan	upon us
እና	jai (as in <u>rain</u>)	Coptic conjunction article
እና ሰላም ሰላም	jai nay nan	have mercy upon us
ገረብ (Greek word)	ereenee	peace
እንደ	anzeeb	school
አባት	yoat (as in <u>boat</u>)	father
ወይ	owwoh	and
አንድ	owway	one
አራት	ef-too	four
አስረት	goot	twenty
አስረት አራት	goot eftoo	twenty four
እንደዚህ	oo-gay	By – So long

LECTURE # 3

Consonant Letters (cont.)

ᱚ (l)

ᱛ (p)

ᱜ (sh)

ᱝ (m)

ᱞ (s/z)

ᱟ (kh)


ᱠ (ti)

ᱡ (x)

ᱢ (f)

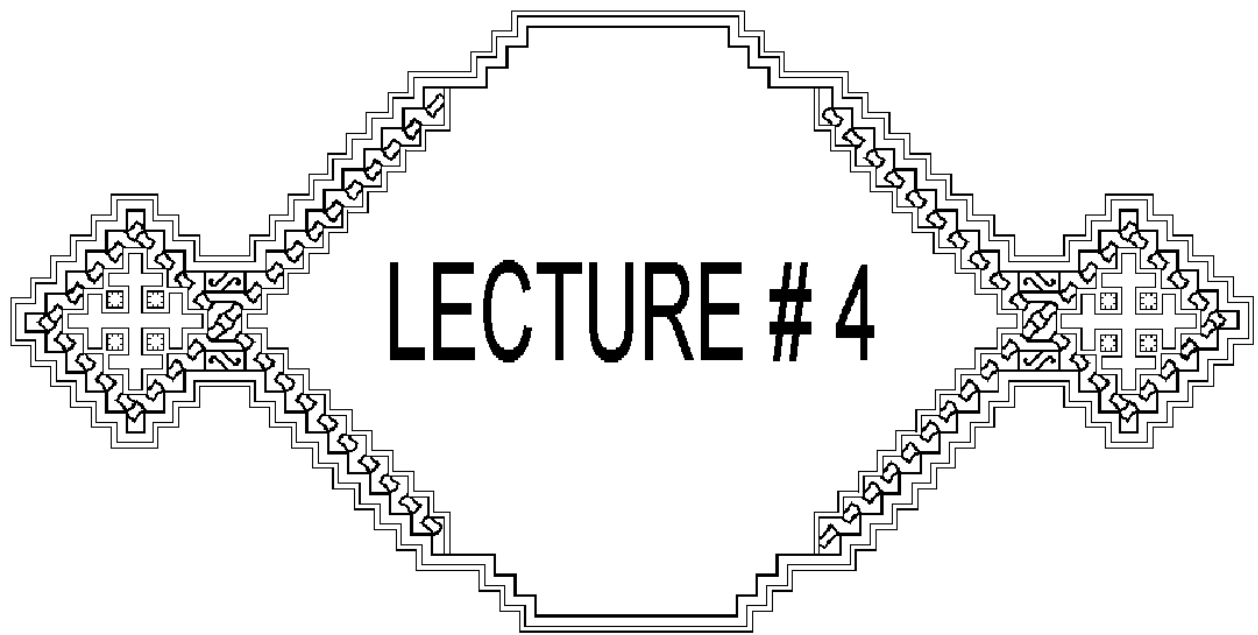
ᱣ (ch)

Consonant Letters (cont.)

Letter	Name	Pronunciation	How to write it
ᱚ	Lavla	L (as in <u>L</u> ook)	
ᱛ	Meyy	M (as in <u>M</u> other)	
ᱜ	Eksee	X (as in a <u>x</u>)	
ᱝ	Pee	P (as in <u>P</u> epper)	
ᱞ	Seema	Z (as in <u>Z</u> one) (in words of Greek origin when followed by the letter M) S (as in <u>S</u> ame) In all other situations.	
ᱟ	Feyy	F (as in <u>F</u> an)	
ᱠ	Shai	SH (as in <u>S</u> hake)	
ᱡ	Khai	Kh (as in German <u>A</u> chtung).	
ᱢ	Cheema	Ch (as in <u>C</u> hurch)	
ᱣ	Tee	Tee (as in <u>T</u> ea)	

Read and study the following words using the letters of Lessons 2 & 3

Word	<u>Approx.</u> pronunciation in English	Meaning
ᲡᲠᲘᲚ	passi	to all
ᲓᲣ᲏᲏᲏ ᲡᲠᲘᲚ (Gr. word)	ereenee passi	peace to all
ᲚᲘ᲏Ლ	eshleel	pray
ᲠᲠᲡ	agp	hour
ᲠᲠᲡᲠᲠ	agpia	Book of the hours
ᲚᲠᲓ	sh <u>ay</u> (as in <u>bu</u> y)	Feast, sunrise
᲏ᲟᲑᲣᲓ ᲚᲠᲓ	nofri shay	happy feast
ᲡᲚ᲏ᲚᲟᲚᲚ	pen-yoat	our father
᲏ᲟᲑᲣᲓ ᲡᲡ᲏ᲚᲟᲚᲚ	nofri pen-yoat	Hi Abouna
᲏ᲟᲑᲣᲓ ᲚᲠᲟᲣᲚ	nofri e-gorh	Good Night
ᲚᲚ᲏	kh <u>ain</u> (as in <u>rai</u> n)	in, by, through
ᲚᲣᲠ᲏	ef-ran	the name
ᲚᲢᲟᲚᲚ	ef-yoat	the father
ᲚᲚ᲏ ᲚᲣᲠ᲏ ᲚᲢᲟᲚᲚ	khain ef-ran em-efyoat	In the name of the father
᲏ᲚᲚ	n <u>aim</u> (as in <u>rai</u> n)	and, with
ᲚᲣ᲏ᲣᲓ	sheeri	Son
ᲚᲣᲚᲣᲓ	sh <u>airi</u> (as in <u>rai</u> n)	daughter
ᲘᲟ᲏	S <u>on</u> (as in British h <u>ot</u>)	brother
ᲡᲠᲘᲘᲟ᲏	pa-son	my brother
ᲘᲟ᲏Დ	s <u>o</u> ani (as in b <u>oa</u> t)	sister
ᲚᲠᲘᲘᲟ᲏Დ	ta-coani	my sister
ᲚᲘ᲏ᲠᲚ	esnav	two
ᲚᲣᲟᲚᲚᲚ	shomt	three



1. Consonant Letters (cont.)

ᄁ (b/v) **ᄃ** (g/n/gh) **ᄅ** (d/th)






ᄇ (th/t) **ᄉ** (k/sh/kh) **ᄋ** (ps)


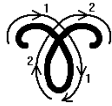

ᄍ (v / i / "o")

ᄏ (The numeral 6 – is not a letter)

2. Some grammatical notes

1. Some Consonant Letters (cont.)

Letter	Name	Pronunciation	How to write it
Ბ	Veeta	<p>V (as in <u>v</u>ase) when followed by a vowel</p> <p>B (as in <u>b</u>aby) when it is the last letter of the word</p> <p>Note: If followed by a consonant, it is pronounced B in most cases. - The following are examples of words where b is followed by a consonant but pronounced V</p> <p>ᲠᲑᲑᲠ (ava) Bishop's title ᲠᲞᲑᲗ (tovh) ask, pray ᲑᲑᲠᲢ (evshi) slumber ᲠᲑᲑᲠ (tevt) fish</p>	
Დ	Gamma	<p>G (as in <u>G</u>o) if followed by Ბ, Რ, Ტ, Უ</p> <p>N (as in <u>N</u>o) if followed by Დ, Რ, Ს, Ტ</p> <p>GH (As in Arabic غ) in all other situations</p>	
Ვ	Delta	<p>D (as in <u>D</u>o) in proper names</p> <p>Th (as in <u>th</u>is) in all other cases</p>	
Ი	Theeta	<p>T (as in <u>T</u>ake) if preceded by Რ, Ს</p> <p>Th (as in <u>Th</u>ink) in all other cases</p>	
Ს	Epsee	PS	

Letter	Name	Pronunciation	How to write it
ⲭ	Keyy	<p>K (as <u>coo</u>k) <i>In all Coptic words</i> (or in Greek words that borrowed into the Coptic language) e.g. ⲭⲬⲙⲓ (keemi) Egypt ⲭⲱ (ko) put ⲈⲣⲭⲬ (evkee) ask, pray (sometimes pronounced evshee) ⲱⲣⲭⲬ (psikee) soul (sometimes pronounced psishee)</p> <p>SH (as in <u>Sh</u>ake) in <i>Greek words</i> when followed by Ⲉ, Ⲭ, ⲓ or ⲣ e.g. ⲭⲈⲣⲈ (shere) Hail</p> <p>KH (as in German <u>Ach</u>tung) in <i>Greek words</i> in other situations e.g. ⲡⲓⲭⲣⲓⲥⲧⲟⲥ (pikhristos) Christ</p>	
Ⲯ	Epsilon	<p>1. long o as in <u>roo</u>m If preceded by o (See Page 1 – 2) as in ⲱⲛⲟⲩⲧ, ⲡⲟⲩⲣⲟ</p> <p>2. V as in <u>V</u>ase If preceded by ⲁ or Ⲉ as in Ⲉⲣⲁ, ⲗⲁⲣⲓⲗ</p> <p>3. i as in d<u>i</u>d in all other situations. as in ⲉⲣⲙⲛⲟⲥ, ⲙⲁⲣⲧⲣⲟⲥ</p>	
Ⲛ	So-o	This is not a letter, It denotes the numeral 6.	

Read and study the following words using the letters of Lessons 2, 3 & 4

Word	<u>Approx.</u> pronunciation in English	Meaning
ψαλμοc (Gr. word)	psalmos	psalm
δοξα (Gr. word)	thoksa (as in <u>th</u> em)	glory
δοξα πατρι (Gr.)	thoksa patri	glory to the father
μαρ	mav	mother
ταμαρ	ta-mav	my mother
φαι πε μινα	fay (as in <u>bu</u> y) pe mina	This is mina
θαι τε μαρια	thay te mariyya	This is mary
παρθενoc (Gr. word)	parthenos	virgin
πιχριστοc	pi-ekhrastos	Christ
αφτωνφ	Af-tonf	is risen
ξεν ουμεθυμι	khain ou-methmee	truly
φνοϋ†	ef-nooti	God
π̄βοic	ep-choys	The Lord
πορρο	ep-ooro	The King
†ορρω	ti-ooroa (as in <u>bo</u> at)	The Queen
χημι	keemi	Egypt
ρεμ̄νχημι	raim-en-keemi	Egyptian (Coptic)
ρεμ̄ν̄αμερικα	raim-en-amerika	American
ρεμ̄ν̄χριστιανoc	raim-en-ekhristiyanos	Christian
αγγελοc	angelos (as in <u>g</u> o)	angel

Notes

1. Coptic Definite articles

(equivalent to "the" in English)

3 for singular masculine

ΠΙ	e.g. ΠΙΤΟΥΤΣ	the chair
ϸ	e.g. ϸΙΩΤ	the father
̀Π	e.g. ̀ΠΩΗΡΙ	the son

3 for singular feminine

†	e.g. †ΠΑΡΘΕΝΟΣ	the virgin
̀Θ	e.g. ̀ΘΥΛΘ	the mother
̀†	e.g. ̀†ΩΕΡΙ	the daughter

2 for plural

ΝΙ	e.g. ΝΙΔΥΤΕΛΟΣ	the angels
ΝΕΝ	e.g. ΝΕΝΩΗΡΙ ἈϸΗΝΟΥ†	the sons of God

2. How to say the numbers in Coptic

1	one	ⲟⲩⲁⲓ	owway
2	two	Ⲉⲛⲁⲩ	esnav
3	three	ⲩⲟⲙⲧ	shomt
4	four	Ⲉⲧⲟⲩ	eftoo
5	five	Ⲉⲧⲓⲟⲩ	etyoo
6	six	ⲥⲟⲟⲩ	so-oo
7	seven	ⲩⲃⲩⲥ	shashf
8	eight	ⲩⲩⲙⲙⲛ	eshmeen
9	nine	ⲩⲩⲓⲧ	psit
10	ten	ⲙⲙⲧ	meet
11	eleven	ⲙⲙⲧ ⲟⲩⲁⲓ	meet owway
12	twelve	ⲙⲙⲧ Ⲉⲛⲁⲩ	meet esnav
20	twenty	ⲭⲟⲩⲧ	goot
21	twenty one	ⲭⲟⲩⲧ ⲟⲩⲁⲓ	goot owway
24	twenty four	ⲭⲟⲩⲧ Ⲉⲧⲟⲩ	goot eftoo
30	thirty	ⲙⲙⲡ	map
40	forty	ⲉⲙⲉ	ehmai (as in <u>rain</u>)
50	fifty	ⲧⲉⲃⲓ	taivi (as in <u>rain</u>)
60	sixty	ⲥⲉ	sai (as in <u>rain</u>)
70	seventy	ⲩⲩⲃⲉ	eshvai (as in <u>rain</u>)
80	eighty	ⲩⲃⲙⲛⲉ	khamnai (as in <u>rain</u>)
90	ninety	ⲡⲓⲥⲧⲁⲩ	pistav
100	hundred	ⲩⲩⲉ	shai (as in <u>rain</u>)
1000	thousand	ⲩⲩⲟ	sho



Je penyot

The Lord's Prayer

أبانا الذي في السموات

ՋԵ ՔԵՆԻՈՒՄ ԵՄԺԵՆ ՈՒՓԽՈՒՄԻ ՄԱՐԵՎՏՈՎՈ ՈՆՋԵ ՔԵՐԱՆ
Je penyot et khen niffee-owwi mareftoovo enje pekran

چي پنيوت إتخين نيفي أوي مارف طوفو إنجي پكران
Our Father Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name أبانا الذي في السموات ليتقدس اسمك

ՄԱՐԵՇԻ ՈՆՋԵ ԿԵՄԵՏՈՐՈ ՔԵՏԵՂՆԱԿ ՄԱՐԵՎՍՈՒ
Mares-ee enje tekmet-ooro petehnak maref shopi

مارس إي إنجي تكمت أورو پتهناك مارف شويي
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done ليأت ملكوتك لتكون مشيئتك

ԱՓՐԻՒՂ ՏԵՆ ԴՓԵ ՆԵՄ ՇԻՋԵՆ ՔԻԿԱՇԻ ՔԵՆՈՒԿ ՈՒՄԵ ՐԱՇԴ
Em-ef-reeti khen etfe nem hijen pikahi, pen-oyk ente rasti

إمفريتني خين إتفي نيم هيچين پيكاهي بين أوليك إنتي راستي
On earth As it is in Heaven, Our daily Bread كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض خبزنا الذي للغد

ՄԻՈՂ ՆԱՆ ԱՓՈՐՄ ՕՐՈՇ ԿԱ ՆՆԵՒԵՐՈՆ ՆԱՆ ԵՅՈՂ
Meef nan em-fo-oo, Owwoh ka nee-eteron nan evol

ميف نان إمفوؤو أووه كاني إتيرون نان إقول
Give us this day, and forgive us our trespasses أعطنا اليوم واغفر لنا ذنوبنا

ԱՓՐԻՒՂ ՇՈՆ ՈՒՄԵՆԿՈՒ ԵՅՈՂ ՆՆԵՒԵՒԵ ՕՐՈՆ ՈՒՄԵՆ ԵՐՈՐՈՒ
em-ef-reeti hon entenکو evol ennee-ete owwon entan ero-oo

إمفريتني هون إنتين كو إقول إنني إتي أوون إنتان إروؤو
as we forgive those who trespass against us كما نغفر نحن أيضاً للمذنبين إلينا

ՕՐՈՇ ԱՍԵՐԵՆՏԵՆ ԵՋՈՒՆ ԵՍԻՐԱԾՄՈՍ ԱԼԼԱ ՆԱԶՄԵՆ
Owwoh emper-enten ekhoon epirazmos, alla nahmen

أووه إمپر إتن إخون إبي رازموس ألا ناهمين
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us ولا تدخلنا في تجربة لكن نجنا

ԵՅՈՂՇԱ ՔԻՔԵՄՈՒՄ. ՏԵՆ ՔԻՃՐԻՍՏՈՍ ԻՆՍՈՒՍ ՔԵՆՇՈՒՍ
evol ha pi pet-ho-oo, khen pi-ekhrastos Eesoos penchoys

إقول هابي پتهوؤو خين بي إخرستوس إيسوس بين شويس
from the evil one, In Christ Jesus our Lord من الشرير بالمسيح يسوع ربنا

ՋԵ ԹՈՒԿ ԿԵ ԴՄԵՏՈՐՈ ՆԵՄ ԴՃՈՄ ՆԵՄ ՔԻՈՒՄ ՍԻ ԵՆԵՂ ԱՄԻՆ
je thok te ti-met-ooro, nem ti-gom nem pi-o-oo sha eneh, Ameen

چي ثوك تي تي مت أورو نيم تي جوم نيم بي أوأو شا إنيه آمين
for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever, Amen لأن لك الملك والقوة والمجد إلى الأبد آمين

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